

We claim:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:  
 2 receiving data in a presentation buffer of a presentation controller;  
 3 receiving a request from a requestor to read the data in the presentation buffer;  
 4 deleting the data from the presentation buffer in response to the request; and  
 5 not delivering the data to the requestor in response to the request.
  
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics  
 2 controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.
  
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving data includes placing the presentation  
 2 controller in a security mode.
  
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein deleting the data includes taking the  
 2 presentation controller out of the security mode.
  
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein not delivering the data includes delivering data  
 2 other than the data requested.
  
- 1 6. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when  
 2 executed by at least one processor cause said at least one processor to perform:  
 3 receiving data in a presentation buffer of a presentation controller;  
 4 receiving a request from a requestor to read the data in the presentation buffer;  
 5 deleting the data from the presentation buffer in response to the request; and

1        7.        The medium of claim 6, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics  
2        controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.

1        8.        The medium of claim 6, wherein receiving data includes placing the  
2        presentation controller in a security mode.

9. The medium of claim 6, wherein deleting the data includes taking the presentation controller out of the security mode.

1     10.     The medium of claim 6, wherein not delivering the data includes delivering data  
2     other than the data requested.

1     11.     An apparatus, comprising:  
2             a presentation controller having:  
3                     a presentation buffer;  
4                     a command handler to process commands and addresses;  
5                     a data handler coupled to the presentation buffer to monitor data and to  
6                             pass at least a part of the data to the presentation buffer;  
7                     a security violation detector to detect a request by a requestor to read  
8                             protected data in the presentation buffer; and  
9                     a data protector coupled to the data handler to prevent providing the  
10                             protected data to the requestor.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the data protector is further to purge the  
2 protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the request to read  
3 protected data.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics  
2 controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the presentation controller includes a by-  
2 pass mode that does not prevent providing the protected data to the requestor.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data protector:  
2 is to purge the protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the  
3 request to read protected data; and  
4 is to place the presentation controller in the by-pass mode after said purge.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the data protector is to deliver data other  
2 than the data requested.

1 17. A system, comprising:  
2 a presentation circuit including:  
3 an input interface to receive data;  
4 an output port to transmit data for presentation;  
5 a presentation buffer coupled to the output port;  
6 a presentation controller coupled to the presentation buffer and to the  
7 input interface and having:

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the data protector is further to purge the  
2 protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the request to read  
3 protected data.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the presentation controller is a graphics  
2 controller and the presentation buffer is a frame buffer.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the presentation controller includes a by-pass  
2 mode that does not prevent providing the protected data to the requestor.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the data protector:  
2 is to purge the protected data from the presentation buffer upon detection of the  
3 request to read protected data; and  
4 is to place the presentation controller in the by-pass mode after said purge.

1 22. The system of claim 17, wherein the data protector is to deliver data other than  
2 the data requested.